

SECURITY INFORMATION

East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC General Military Information

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EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

RED. 9 March 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

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1. At 9 p.m. on 7 February 1953, 8 to 9 trucks each occupied by about 15 to 16 soldiers and each towing a 37-mm AA gun were seen in front of the Neuhof railroad station.
2. On 11 February, tanks were unloaded from a troop train at the Blumenthal railroad station. They left toward Herzsprung. On 12 February, convoys including tanks, artillery pieces, SP guns and engineer equipment were seen throughout the day passing through Blandikow, coming from the direction of Tschow and proceeding toward Herzsprung and Fretzdorf. According to an informant, other columns passed through Liebenenthal toward Dossow at the same time. On 13 February, troops were bivouacking in the Fretzdorf area. On 13 and 14 February, all troop units left toward west. On 14 February, major elements passed through Blumenthal toward west. At 12:30 p.m., a troop train consisting of 6 boxcars occupied by personnel, and an undetermined number of flatcars carrying trucks and guns, passed through Blumenthal toward Neustadt. The numbers of all vehicles were painted over.² On 15 February, tanks were being loaded in Netzeband.³
3. At noon on 14 February, a troop train consisting of 8 boxcars occupied by about 250 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, and of an undetermined number of flatcars carrying at least 20 trucks, 20 x 122-mm howitzers, 1 jeep, and 1 field kitchen passed through the Neustadt railroad station, coming from the direction of Wittenberge and proceeding toward Berlin. The numbers of the vehicles were covered.⁴
4. An informant stated that units previously stationed in Schwerin left the post between 12 and 14 February for exercises, allegedly in the Magdeburg area. The tanks were shipped by train while the motorized units moved by road.²

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SECRET/

- 2 -

25X1A



5. From 12 to 13 February, the military installations in Rostock were occupied as previously. The Iutlitz Kaserne was occupied by about 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Weapons observed included 100-mm AT guns, 76.2-mm and 57-mm AT guns. Training in firing with rifles was observed and armed troops with gasmasks were repeatedly seen lined up for inspections.

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The barracks installation on Ulmenstrasse was occupied as previously by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, and by naval soldiers.⁵

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6. An informant stated that, between 28 January and 10 February, winter exercises were held in the Ferchesar-Landin, - Kotzen-Bamme-Koenigs-luette-Rathenow area. Between noon and 1:30 p.m. on 9 February, 55 trucks, 3 x 122-mm field howitzers and about 500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were entrained at the Rathenow main railroad station. The unit had come from the direction of Bamme and allegedly was bound for Brandenburg.⁶

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7. On 5 February, T-44 tank No 410 was being loaded at the Magdeburg-Friedrichstadt railroad station; the tank had come from the direction of Koenigsborn. On 11 February, 4 x 37-mm AA guns and 4 x 85-mm AA guns without escorting troops were loaded on 4 flatcars. The guns had come from the Flak Kaserne.⁷

8. From 11 to 14 February, two shipments totaling 20 boxcar loads of troops and 30 trucks towing 160-mm mortars and coming from the Infanterie Kaserne in Rathenow were being entrained. The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia.⁸ At February, the first elements of the troops from the Pionier Kaserne returned and were unloaded at the Main Station. Forty 122-mm field howitzers were seen with these troops.¹

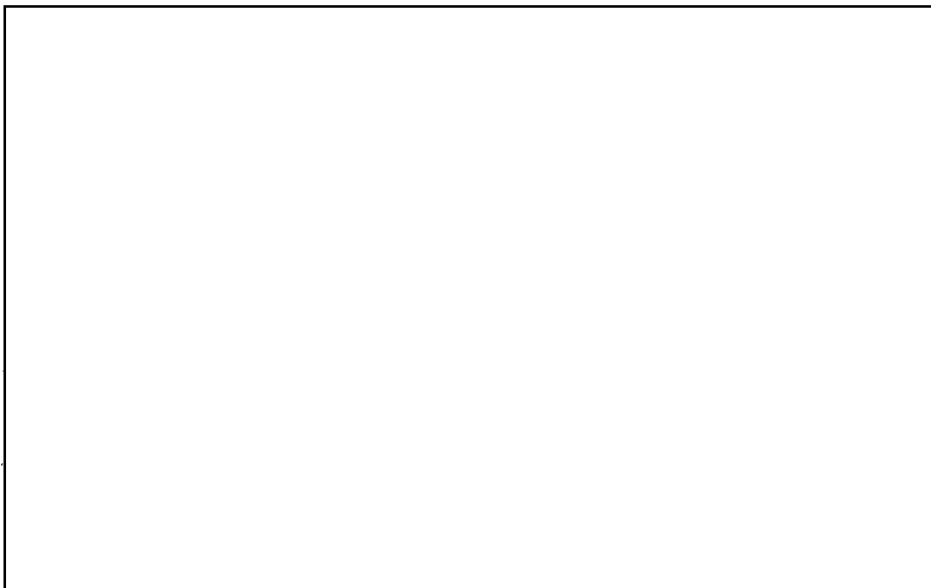
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9. The following troops and materiel were unloaded at the Neustrelitz railroad station on 12 and 15 February:

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- 3 -

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About 60 flatcars and about 100 converted boxcars were assembled at the Weimar railroad station.¹⁰

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1. Comment. The AAA column belonged to the 2d Gds AA Div.
2. Comment. From 11 to 14 February, winter exercises of units of the Third Shock Army probably took place in the area west of the Wittstock troop training grounds. Shipments of the 18th How Arty Brig (US) from Rathenow on 9 and 10 February and of the 20th Army AT Arty Brig (US) from Brandenburg on 9 February to the area southeast of Schwerin, as well as the entraining of tanks of the 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div on 12 February in Schwerin, probably were connected with these exercises. It is possible that the exercises developed in two phases, the first beginning in the area southeast of Schwerin and the second ending in the area south of Wittstock. It is of interest that, in addition to army troops, elements of the IV Arty Corps also participated in these winter exercises. The artillery shipment observed on 14 February en route toward Neustadt probably returned to Brandenburg. It may be identical with a train which went from Fritzwalk to Brandenburg on 13 February. The units unloaded in Rathenow on 14 February, probably belonged to the 18th How Arty Brig (US) and were returning from the exercises south of Wittstock. According to reports on transportation, the elements of the brigade moved from Wittstock to Rathenow in three shipments on 14 February.

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- 25X1A 3. Comment. According to reports four trains went from Netzeband to Neustrelitz on 15 and 16 February 1953. Netzeband, though not rather plausible as loading station for units of the 12th Gds Tank Div, seems possible, as, according to the reference report, eight other shipments, probably of units of the division, went from Neuruppin to Neustrelitz at the same time. Units of the Second Gds Mecz Army probably held winter exercises in the Neustrelitz area, in which units of the 9th and 12th Gds Tank Divs and other army troops also participated. Among these troops probably were also elements of the 2d Light Arty Brig (US), which moved from Doeberitz to Neustrelitz on 11 February and the unloading of which on 12 February is reported in paragraph 3 of this report. The brigade, however, is not believed to be equipped with 122-mm field howitzers. The AAA shipment probably involved units of the 31st AAA Div which, according to the last mentioned reference report, moved from Boetzow to Neustrelitz on 12 February.

- 25X1A 4. Comment. According to reports three troop trains went from Wittstock to Doeberitz on 15 February. They probably carried, among others, units of the 18th How Arty Brig (US), which, having participated in the exercises of the Third Shock Army, moved to the area west of Berlin for additional exercises beginning 15 February. Units of the unidentified army artillery brigade and of the 6th Gds Mecz Div from Bernau probably also participated in these exercises, which were possibly held by the Fourth Gds Mecz Army.

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- 25X1A 5. Comment. According to information in this report, the units of the 3d Gds AT Arty Brig can be carried as previously in the Putlitz Kaserne and the Ulmen Kaserne until 13 February.

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- 4 -

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6. Comment. It is possible that winter exercises of units of the 10th Gds Tank Div stationed in Brandenburg, as the 63d Gds Tank Regt, and Kramnitz were held in the area east of Rathenow in connection with units of the 6th Arty Div stationed in Rathenow. According to reports on transportation, a small shipment of tanks had been dispatched in Satz Korn for Pritzerbe on 4 February 1953. The transport of an artillery unit mentioned in paragraph 6 is probably identical with a shipment which, according to other information, went from Rathenow to Satz Korn on 9 February. If it had been a shipment of the 10th Gds Tank Div, no pertinent information has yet been obtained.

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7. Comment. Probably guns in need of repair of the 3d Gds AAA Div.

8. Comment. The units entrained probably belonged to the 65th Mort Brig (US) and, according to reports , went to Grima for winter exercises.

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9. Comment. units of the 234th Mort Regt of the 9th Gds Tank Div, which presumably returned from advanced combat practice firing.

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10. Comment. The units entrained belonged to the 13th AAA Div.

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